

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

February 22, 2021

Chairman Jonathan R. Eaton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. This meeting was held via ZOOM. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Gary B. DePalma and Jomarie F. O'Mahony. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

A motion was made and duly seconded and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy with respect to the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1370, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)3, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town as so determined by the Chairman and further to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or other acquisition of real property at 201 Lowell Street in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)6, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town as so determined by the Chairman.

Chairman Jonathan R. Eaton reconvened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. This meeting was held via ZOOM and all votes taken were by roll call in alphabetical order. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Gary B. DePalma and Jomarie F. O'Mahony. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman Eaton thanked IT Director John O'Neil and WCTV for facilitating the meeting.

Chairman Eaton stated that pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, members of the public who wish to watch and listen to the meeting may do so in the following manner: WCTV (Channel 9 – Comcast xFinity; Channel 37 Verizon FiOS, and live stream wctv.org). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. Members of the public who would like to listen to this meeting while in progress may also do so via telephone by dialing 1-646-558-8656 and enter meeting ID 896 9547 8994 then press # and press # again at the next voice prompt. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the meeting designated for public comment, by following the steps previously noted then press \*9 on their telephone keypad. This will notify the meeting host that the caller wishes to speak. All callers using this feature will be placed in queue in the order they entered the prompt. In the event that, despite our best efforts, we are not able to provide for real-time access, we will post a record of this meeting on the Town's website as soon as we are able.

Chairman Eaton asked meeting participants to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

### TREASURY WARRANTS

Chairman Eaton asked for a motion to accept the Treasury Warrants. A motion was made by Selectman Bendel, seconded by Selectman DePalma and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen accept Treasury Warrants 33, 33A, 34 & 34A.

## MINUTES

A motion was made by Selectman Cairra, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of their meeting held February 8, 2021 and that all action taken is hereby ratified and confirmed.

### **SHELLY NEWHOUSE, HEALTH DIRECTOR, AND WILLIAM CAVANAUGH, FIRE CHIEF, RE: UPDATE ON COVID-19**

Ms. Newhouse reported that there are currently 61 active positive cases and approximately 200 in quarantine. She stated that she is pleased to see the numbers are trending down. Ms. Newhouse stated that she is concerned that there will be an increase following school vacation.

Ms. Newhouse stated that effective March 1, the state is no longer providing local Boards of Health with first dose vaccines. She reassured those watching that those individuals who have received a first dose from Wilmington Board of Health are guaranteed a second dose. She expressed her frustration as Wilmington is prepared to provide the vaccine to its residents.

Ms. Newhouse stated that there has been discussion about establishing a regional collaborative. She advised that guidelines to establish a collaborative include having the capacity to vaccinate a minimum of 750 per day, 5 days per week; serve unmet need geographically, meet administrative threshold of 85% and report doses within 24 hours, serve all residents of the Commonwealth and provide public links for vaccine on [Mass.gov.COVIDVaccine](https://www.mass.gov/covidvaccine). She encouraged residents to find available vaccines on [vaxfinder.mass.gov](https://vaxfinder.mass.gov).

Members of the Board stated that they share Ms. Newhouse' frustration. Selectman Bendel complimented Ms. Newhouse and her staff as they were fully prepared. He expressed his appreciation that Ms. Newhouse continues to provide valuable information for the residents and is pleased that the number of positive cases in Wilmington is decreasing. Selectman Bendel advised that Representative Robertson has been in contact with the Town and is working to establish a regional collaboration. He commented that it is discouraging that senior residents have to travel to Fenway Park in Boston or Gillette Stadium in Foxboro to obtain vaccines.

Ms. Newhouse opined that with all the challenges of the past year, the most stressful is the lack of vaccine.

Chief Cavanaugh stated that the Fire Department is doing well. He reported that the department is responding to potential and suspected COVID calls and members continue to disinfect the ambulance, themselves and the equipment following the calls. Chief Cavanaugh stated that members of public safety have received both doses of the vaccination that wish to and that Thursday will have fullest immunity to the virus. He stated that if there are first responders who have changed their mind and now wish to be vaccinated, he is working with Ms. Newhouse to ensure that happens.

Chief Cavanaugh expressed his frustration that the Town works every year to prepare for such a situation in order to be eligible for Emergency Management grants. He advised that an emergency distribution plan is part of the requirements and the plan has been approved by the state. He opined that the Governor's actions indicate that he does not have confidence in the boards of health to follow the plan. He stated that many years have been spent preparing and now is the time to implement the plan. Chief Cavanaugh characterized it as demoralizing.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any additional questions or comments from the Board and there were none. Town Manager Hull stated that Ms. Newhouse, Chief Cavanaugh, their departments and other relevant departments are prepared and ready to implement vaccine distribution.

**THERESA MARCIELLO, ELDERLY SERVICES DIRECTOR, RE: COVID-19'S IMPACT ON SENIORS AND THEIR ABILITY TO OBTAIN THE VACCINE**

Ms. Marciello acknowledged the frustration of Ms. Newhouse, Chief Cavanaugh, Town Manager Hull and members of the Board of Selectmen and stated that the frustration level of the seniors is that much greater. She explained that for close to a year the elders of the community have remained away from family and friends. They are comfortable in their home, community and local area. In order to receive the vaccine, elders are expected to go to an unfamiliar location, in a large environment with people they do not know. Transportation is an issue due to constraints of the pandemic.

Ms. Marciello stated that, in an effort to assist elders, she reviews the vaccination appointments available for the Danvers distribution site which is the closest to Wilmington. When she sees a large group of openings, she will contact seniors that she knows will have transportation and helps to make the appointment. The confirmation page is then printed and delivered to the elder.

Ms. Marciello reported that during this pandemic she has seen an increase in malnutrition cases. In an effort to address malnutrition, the number of home delivered meals has increased and the Department of Elderly Services has been able to implement "Grab and Go" lunches, many of which are sponsored by generous donors. Ms. Marciello advised that the Department of Elderly Services received a grant and she will be using the funds to assist in obtaining produce for seniors. She stated that she is working with local grocery stores.

Chairman Eaton expressed his appreciation that Ms. Marciello and her staff have channeled their frustration into helping the seniors of our community.

Ms. Marciello stated that her department is attempting to keep routine activities to the greatest extent possible. She advised that the program to assist seniors with filing their property taxes has begun. The process is different where the senior has a specific time to come to the senior center. When they arrive, they phone in and a volunteer retrieves the documentation. Upon completion, the senior receives a phone call to return and retrieve the paperwork.

She also noted that the Tai Chi class was outside the senior center exercising.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Members of the Board expressed their appreciation to Ms. Marciello and her staff and related different incidents where they have provided assistance.

**LOU CIMAGLIA, DIRECTOR OF VETERANS' SERVICES, RE: STATUS ON VETERANS' SERVICES AND IMPACTS FROM COVID**

Mr. Cimaglia thanked the Board of Selectmen for the invitation to discuss the activities of the Department of Veterans' Services. Though the year has been challenging, the department has been able to offer many services and events. Mr. Cimaglia reported that in March, prior to the shutdown, the Department of Veterans' Services conducted a benefit night. At this event they were able to assist a young veteran to obtain housing, assist a veteran to enroll in VA health care which he was not previously enrolled and it was also the night they met with Liam Prigmore to discuss the idea of a monument for fallen war fighters as an Eagle Scout Project.

Mr. Cimaglia stated that although the Town was not able to have the traditional Memorial Day parade, Wilmington honored its fallen by decorating the graves of veterans at Wildwood Cemetery, the rededication of memorials throughout town and the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans' Lot. In addition, a ceremony was held commemorating the anniversary of September 11, 2001 attacks, distribution of food baskets, food cards and gas cards through the generosity of the Sons of Italy and others, efforts of the Wilmington High School hockey team to obtain needed items to send overseas, the weekend prior to Veterans' Day a street was dedicated to Sgt. George Veloza, a WWII veteran and Silver Star recipient and a ceremony was held on Veterans' Day where the monument to fallen war fighters was unveiled.

Mr. Cimaglia related to the Board of Selectmen that he received a phone call from an older veteran seeking help because he could not shovel. He stated that he called Liam Prigmore and he went over twice during the last storm to assist the veteran, including cleaning the grill, and he would not accept compensation. Mr. Cimaglia stated that is an example of the love he has for his community and noted that Liam was accepted into the Merchant Marine Academy in New York.

Mr. Cimaglia stated that there are consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic which they must overcome and adapt. He reported that the Bedford VA is doing an amazing job distributing the vaccine and are currently offering the vaccine to veterans age 50+. In order to be eligible, veterans must be enrolled in the VA healthcare.

Veteran suicide is a devastating issue that communities have responded to for many decades. Multiple studies indicate that 22 veterans per day commit suicide and Wilmington has been affected by it. Mr. Cimaglia stated that during the pandemic the number has increased 20% and 30% for those in active duty. He stated that there are many reasons that veterans struggle to reintegrate from military to civilian life and opined that the focus should be to get the men and women help as soon as they get home. Due to the pandemic, many VAs are not offering in-person mental health visits including group meetings which local veterans take advantage of. He commented that the veterans do not receive the same benefit through the Zoom platform.

Another obstacle is getting veterans the examination required to open a claim for service connected disability. Veterans are being required to travel many miles and, in some cases, out of state. Mr. Cimaglia opined that this is not acceptable. In addition, the closure of pharmacies and CBOCs (Community Based Outpatient Clinics), including one in Lowell, are detrimental to the local veterans who rely on them for healthcare.

Mr. Cimaglia praised the Home Base Program, a Red Sox Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital program dedicated to healing invisible wounds for veterans of all eras. Mr. Cimaglia stated that they offer programs to returning veterans and their families. He advised that he and his staff have attended training on topics including recognizing suicide risks in returning veterans and issues of pain for veterans. He advised that he is working with the organization for them to train Wilmington first responders to be aware of red flags. Mr. Cimaglia advised Chief Desmond that he would be in contact with him. Chief Desmond stated that he and members of his department are familiar with the Home Base Program and each November members of the Police Department stop shaving to raise funds for the program.

Mr. Cimaglia provided contact information and encouraged veterans to reach out for assistance.

Chairman Eaton thanked Mr. Cimaglia and members of his staff for the work they continue to do on a regular basis.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from members of the Board. Selectman Bendel thanked Mr. Cimaglia for the update and related that he went in to the Veterans' office and within a matter of minutes there were three or four veterans looking for assistance. He stated that their reach goes beyond Wilmington and thanked Mr. Cimaglia for his efforts in getting the word out relative to the VA vaccinations.

Selectman DePalma related that his grandson is in the service in Norway and Lou's name was brought up by another soldier.

Selectman O'Mahony stated that in her profession she has experienced services that have shut down and concurred with Mr. Cimaglia that TeleHealth is a poor substitute for in-person office visits. She expressed her appreciation that Mr. Cimaglia and his staff have found alternative options to provide support to the veterans.

Town Manager Hull stated that, during these unsettling times, veterans can rely on a team of individuals who are totally committed and can offer some measure of assurance and stability. He stated that he knows veterans in other communities do not have the same opportunity that Wilmington veterans have. Town Manager Hull related a letter he received from a veteran of another community who was referred to Mr. Cimaglia's office for assistance. When the veteran arrived Mr. Frotten was assisting someone and acknowledged that he would be with him shortly. Once Mr. Frotten was available he assisted the gentleman, put him at ease and took care of what needed to be addressed. Town Manager Hull stated that it speaks volumes when someone takes the time to write a two page letter.

#### **JOSEPH A. DESMOND, POLICE CHIEF, RE: ACCREDITATION OF WILMINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Desmond stated that the Wilmington Police Department was first accredited in 2011, a goal of former chief Michael Begonis. He stated that obtaining accreditation is not an easy feat and once achieved the department must be reassessed every three years. In Massachusetts there are approximately 94 communities who have earned accreditation, though some communities have been certified. Wilmington underwent a three day, in person assessment in August 2020 and noted there were delays due to COVID-19. On January 20, 2021 the Board voted to recertify Wilmington Police Department's accreditation for the next three years. Chief Desmond acknowledged that a lot of work is involved in the reassessment and it is not the most glamorous part of law enforcement as it relates to policies and procedures. He stated that the good thing is that an independent organization conducted the evaluation. He advised that the department has to make changes ensuring that the policies and procedures are current and relevant.

Chief Desmond acknowledged the efforts of Lieutenant Daniel Murray and advised that he intends to continue to pursue accreditation of the police department during his tenure. Chief Desmond acknowledged the public's demand for Law Enforcement Reform and opined that the department has already taken those steps and when regulations are developed through legislation, the department is ready.

Chief Desmond reported that a benefit to receiving accreditation status is the positive effect on the Town's liability insurance.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Members expressed their congratulations and appreciation to Chief Desmond and the members of the Police Department. Members recognized that the Chief has prioritized engaging in the community and the community is fortunate to have a police department that is professional and compassionate.

## **REVIEW OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY PETITION**

Town Manager Hull reviewed the warrant articles that were submitted by petition. A total of fifteen petitions were received including six requests to purchase Town-owned land, four requests to rezone property, two requests to amend Zoning By-Laws, a petition to allow Kristofer Stokes' test results be allowed for consideration as a fire fighter, a request to name the soccer field at the North Intermediate School for Mr. Frank Levine and a request to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept a parcel of land as a gift.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board and there were none. Chairman Eaton noted that the warrant articles will be reviewed at the joint meeting of the Planning Board and Finance Committee on Tuesday, March 16 beginning at 7 p.m.

## **PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NON-PETITIONED WARRANT ARTICLES**

Town Manager Hull reviewed the non-petitioned warrant articles. Article 1 is the article that relates to the Town Election. The Election of Town Officers will be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Most notable articles include the funding of replacement vehicles for various departments; voting machines; technology; improvements to Shawsheen School roof; Woburn Street School ceiling; engineering design for intersection improvement at Shawsheen Avenue, Hopkins Street and Lake Street; traffic signal detection on Route 62 at Woburn Street; improvements to tennis/basketball courts at Shawsheen School; Frank Kelley Track; acquisition of a portion of 201 Lowell Street; adoption of Chapter 39, Section 23(D); amend the Zoning By-law to create Brew Pub use and rezoning certain parcels on Map 19 from Residence 20 to Residence 10.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairman Eaton reviewed his letter to the Congressional delegation regarding the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine to local Boards of Health. Chairman Eaton reviewed the actions the Board of Health has taken to prepare to distribute vaccine based upon communication from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health based upon figures provided by the federal government. The federal government has provided fewer doses to the Commonwealth than previously communicated and the governor has prioritized vaccine distribution to general vaccination sites such as Gillette Stadium and Fenway Park. He stated that Wilmington received 100 doses the week of February 1 and zero doses the weeks of February 8 and February 15. Chairman Eaton wrote that it is an unacceptable level of inefficiency that is frustrating the ability of the public health professionals that have been on the front lines of this pandemic since the beginning and are best positioned to administer the vaccine to the community.

Chairman Eaton reviewed communication from Marylou Sudders, Secretary, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, who wrote to update local Boards of Health with important information about the state's effort regarding vaccination distribution, where demand vastly exceeds current supply. She wrote that the Baker – Polito Administration is committed to the effective, efficient and equitable administration of vaccines throughout the state. Information provided included Streamlined Vaccination Distribution, Equity, Serving the Most Vulnerable and Regional Collaboration

Selectman O'Mahony reviewed her email regarding the \$1 million federal grant for improvements to North Wilmington Station. She stated that there have been questions raised whether the funds will change the plans that were presented to the Board of Selectmen. She noted that the plan included improvements relative to accessibility and extended the platform to prevent trains from blocking Route 62 to emergency vehicles. She advised the Board that it is here understanding the funds will supplement and not replace but she is waiting for confirmation. Senator Tarr's office did respond that it is their understanding.

Selectman O'Mahony stated that an additional update from the MBTA Advisory Board is discussions have taken place relative to the MBTA Advisory Board being able to appoint someone to the MBTA Governing Board. Currently there is not a representative from the MBTA Advisory Board on the Governing Board. Public comments are still being received regarding service cuts.

Town Manager Hull reviewed an advisory from Massachusetts Department of Transportation regarding the closure of right lanes on Interstate 93 Southbound for bridge repairs. The temporary overnight closures of the two right travel lanes will allow work crews to begin repairs to a damaged beam on the bridge carrying Route 125 over Interstate 93. Additional work to complete the repairs will be scheduled for a later date. On February 10, 2021, an over-height trash hauler truck struck and damaged the northern fascia beam. Since that time, the right lane on Route 125 westbound on the bridge and the on-ramp from Route 125 to Interstate 93 southbound have been closed. These closures will remain in place until the repairs can be fully completed to the damaged beam.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a memorandum from Paul Alunni, Town Engineer, regarding Route 125 Bridge at I-93. He wrote that relative to the crash which occurred on February 10, 2021, the impact caused significant damage to the outer-most beam resulting in lane closures. He noted that a 12-inch diameter water main was installed along Route 125 in 2018. This water main traverses the Route 125 bridge along its south side (opposite of the crash), and is carried by supports connected to the outer-most beam of the bridge superstructure. The water main is Town-owned infrastructure. The water main support system for the bridge was designed by Green International Affiliates, Inc. and immediately following the crash, the Town engaged Green International to perform two inspections of the water main and support system; the first inspection occurring on February 11, 2021, visual ground daytime inspection, and the second on February 12, 2021, hands-on aerial overnight inspection. Based on their inspection report, Green International has concluded that the overall alignment of the water main and utility supports remain in good condition.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum to Christine Touma-Conway, Town Clerk, regarding the unexpired School Committee vacancy. At a special meeting held Wednesday, February 17, 2021, the Board of Selectmen voted to direct the Town Clerk to place the unexpired School Committee seat on the ballot for the upcoming April 24, 2021 Annual Town Election. The Board took no action with respect to filling the School Committee seat temporarily until the April 24, 2021 local election.

Town Manager Hull reviewed an email from Christine Touma-Conway, Town Clerk, to individuals who have expressed interest in filling the vacancy on the School Committee as a result of Steve Bjork's resignation. Ms. Touma-Conway provided information on the Board's direction that the unexpired seat be added to the ballot and the steps to take if they are interested in being a candidate.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter to Andrew Lavigne advising him that the Finance Committee Appointing Committee appointed him to the vacant seat on the Finance Committee for a term to expire in 2022.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a letter to Kenneth P. Clarkin which notified him of his appointment to the Elderly Services Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2021.

Town Manager Hull reviewed an email from Ron O'Connor, Director, Office of Local and Regional Health, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, advising the Town that the FY 2021 state budget includes earmarked funds for municipalities for costs associated with COVID-19 expenses. Funds in the amount of \$14,705.88 have been earmarked for the Town of Wilmington and must be spent by June 30, 2021. COVID-19 affiliate organization, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, will distribute the funds directly to each city/town as they have been doing with other municipal funds during the pandemic.

Town Manager Hull reviewed a joint memorandum from him and Dr. Glenn Brand, Superintendent of Schools, to the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. Town Manager Hull and Dr. Brand reported that they participated in a Zoom session with School Committee Chair Jenn Bryson, Selectmen Chairman Jonathan Eaton, Assistant Superintendent of Administration and Finance Paul Ruggiero and representatives of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) about the status of the Town's statements of interest (SOI). Representatives from MSBA appeared to look favorably on the community's financial readiness to commit to a partnership and recognize the need in light of the age of the six schools. The memorandum stated that the MSBA is seeking some demonstration that there is consensus within the community around characteristics and changes that residents would like to see and would not like to see with respect to the future elementary schools design and grade configuration. The fact that the Town proposed an approach in its Facilities Master Plan is advantageous to the Town. The MSBA would like to understand the degree to which the approach proposed in the plan is one that local leaders and the community would like to evaluate more closely. The MSBA expects to make their recommendations on communities to invite into the CORE program to their Board of Directors in early April. Dr. Brand and Town Manager Hull recommended a number of next steps as part of the process to review the recommendation of the Facilities Master Plan concerning school consolidation and seek feedback on the types of grade structure and elementary school configuration.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the Sutton Brook Superfund Site. He reported that he, Shelly Newhouse, Health Director, and Valerie Gingrich, Planning and Conservation Director, participated in a Microsoft Teams virtual session with Lynne Jennings and representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss EPA's proposal that the Town of Wilmington assist EPA by developing institutional controls that establish a permitting process for property owners seeking to pursue certain uses including installation of groundwater wells within the Sutton Brook Superfund site proper and a designated buffer area around the site. These types of measures might serve as a template for addressing groundwater wells in areas impacted by the Olin Superfund site. Most of the Sutton Brook Superfund site that is in Wilmington covers the Krochmal Farm. The Town of Tewksbury has drafted proposed changes to their groundwater protection district within their zoning by-law that are intended to increase oversight of activities that may impact groundwater on the Sutton Brook superfund site. Tewksbury plans to take the proposed changes to their May 2021 annual town meeting. Ms. Jennings had reviewed Section 6 of the Wilmington Board of Health Code of Regulations which addresses wells and questioned whether the regulations could be modified to include EPA and DEP in the review process with



respect to wells or whether modification to the Town's zoning by-law with respect to the groundwater protection district would be the better approach. The group was advised that, in light of the schedule for finalizing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for approval by the Selectmen and posting the warrant, there is insufficient time to develop an article to include on the May 1, 2021 warrant.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding the prospect of the Recreation Department being permitted to resume some level of programs in the schools. Dr. Glenn Brand, School Superintendent, has confirmed that the School Department will maintain its current approach with respect to not allowing visitors into the schools for the balance of this academic year. Dr. Brand is concerned about whether the custodial personnel will have the ability to fully clean and disinfect the schools each night after programs conclude for the health and safety of staff and students entering the school buildings the following day.

Selectman Bendel expressed his appreciation to the Town Manager for providing the memorandum. He had asked for the information after watching a recent Finance Committee meeting where it was reported that the Recreation Department would not be able to utilize the schools for programs. He stated that he respectfully disagrees with Dr. Brand's concern whether the Public Buildings Department can disinfect the school buildings. He opined that Public Buildings employees have done a phenomenal job since last March. He expressed concern that Wilmington kids are set to miss out on great recreation programs and listed a number of examples including pickleball, yoga and cooking lessons and noted many of the programs take place on the weekends. Selectman Bendel opined that it is important to keep kids active. He stated that it is his understanding, based on watching the Finance Committee meeting, that the number of positive cases continue to go down and the Health Director is willing to permit the Recreation Department to conduct the programs.

Chairman Eaton clarified that the Town Manager has jurisdiction over the rental and use of all Town property with the exception of the schools which is subject to the School Committee.

Selectman Caira stated that he believes Town Manager Hull mentioned that the Recreation Director will be meeting with the School Superintendent and suggested that the Public Buildings Superintendent be included in that meeting. Town Manager Hull clarified that Recreation Director Karen Campbell and Dr. Brand have had conversations but he is not sure if a meeting is scheduled. Ms. Campbell had reached out to Dr. Brand about the prospect of spring programs and the expectation is that she will be reaching out to him again.

Town Manager Hull reviewed his memorandum regarding efforts to accommodate football and cheerleading for fall season 2. He noted that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association has approved a Fall II Season to include football and cheerleading. Football practice is scheduled to begin February 24, 2021 weather and field conditions permitting. Wilmington's first three football games will be away. The hope and expectation is that when Wilmington returns home for their first home game that the high school football field will be clear of snow via natural melting. In an effort to accommodate the practice schedule, the Public Works Department will attempt to clear the natural turf softball field. A crew began work to remove snow from the field earlier but was forced to suspend the effort due to field conditions. A warmer period, in combination with rain, created soft conditions on areas of the field which led to indentation in the field from the Bobcat track tread and risked more extensive damage including impact to the in ground sprinkler system. Clearing snow from the artificial turf field is not recommended due to the possibility of damage to the turf and the removal of crumb rubber from the field. Cost for damage done to the field through work by unauthorized parties, or by engaging in practices not sanctioned in the warranty, would be borne by the Town.

Town Manager Hull advised that there was communication with Mia Muzio, Athletic Director, and Dr. Glenn Brand and the request was to use the Yentile turf field or the high school football turf field. He expressed his concern with using either field but believes, if necessary, the preferred approach would be to use the field at Yentile Farm Recreational Facility. Town Manager Hull informed the Board of Selectmen that the field at Yentile includes a padding that is not a component of the high school field and makes the prospect of damage less likely. He advised that there is an establishment that has cleared the fields of a number of schools and colleges. The Department of Public Works has contacted the references who indicate the firm is reputable.

The Board of Selectmen was reminded by Selectman Bendel that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) has determined that cheerleading is allowed only at home games.

Selectman Caira asked when practice would begin and whether the expectation is that the high school field will be ready. He was advised by the Town Manager that practice begins this week and if the field is ready, they will practice on the field. Selectman Caira confirmed the difference in construction of Alumni Field at the high school and the field at Yentile Farm Recreational Facility.

Town Manager Hull was asked about the cost to clear the field and he advised that it would be approximately \$5,500 and would be borne by the Athletic Department. He stated that the provider will be asked to provide a certificate of insurance naming the Town of Wilmington as an additional insured. If damage occurs, the Town will seek restitution from the vendor.

Selectman Caira expressed concern that, in the process of clearing the Yentile Field, the crumb rubber will inadvertently be deposited in the wetlands. He also asked whether displaced crumb rubber will be replenished for the spring sports.

Town Manager Hull stated that the expectation is that, to the extent crumb rubber is disturbed, it will not be pushed toward Maple Meadow. The field will have to be assessed to determine how much material needs to be brought in to replace the displaced crumb rubber.

Selectman DePalma asked whether the contractor has looked at both fields and it is their recommendation to use the field at Yentile or if it is a decision made by Town departments. Town Manager Hull stated that the contractor has not looked at the fields, he indicated to Mr. Woods that Yentile should be the field cleared. He stated that the Yentile field has a brock pad that has a 16 year warranty which expires in the fall of 2032. He advised that the pad provides a greater measure of protection and that is his basis for using Yentile. Town Manager Hull advised that the company proposed to remove the snow is Turf Prep and he reviewed comments from references.

Selectman DePalma commented that when Town departments and organizations are looking for open space to use, the high school field is discouraged. He opined that the field was made to play football on and they should play on the high school field. Town Manager Hull noted that it is not made to play football on in March. Selectman DePalma responded that a mistake was made.

Selectman Bendel stated that he received more phone calls about this issue over the past couple of weeks and stated that he learned more from speaking with the Town Manager and Department of Public Works. He noted that the high school turf field is still under warranty and that soil testing is still being conducted in the vicinity of the high school field and results could be effected by large amounts of snow. He expressed his appreciation to the Town Manager for exploring a number of options of which fields could be used including the field at Palmer Park.

Selectman Caira appreciates the Town Manager's efforts to make as seamless as possible for kids to get back on field. He stated that while designing the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility, discussions took place that the benefit of installing a turf field is that it could be used year round. He believes that this is an opportunity to use the field in the winter months.

Chairman Eaton asked to confirm that if snow has thawed and melted before the first scheduled home game, the game will be played at the high school field. Town Manager Hull confirmed. Town Manager Hull stated that the Town needs to be mindful that youth soccer and lacrosse also use the field at Yentile.

Selectman O'Mahony commented that she has a senior in high school that will be going to college without having to sit for the SAT and likely will not experience a traditional prom, it is important to keep perspective to provide as normal a situation as possible. She stated that the students have already had a lot taken away from them.

Selectman Bendel suggested that the Board of Selectmen ought to consider budgeting for a piece of equipment to remove snow from the turf fields.

**BOARD TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF DANA BURNHAM, PRESIDENT, WILMINGTON FARMERS MARKET ASSOCIATION TO CONDUCT THE FARMERS MARKET ON SUNDAYS, JUNE 13, 2021 THROUGH OCTOBER 3, 2021, 10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**

Chairman Eaton reviewed Ms. Burnham's request and noted that depending on plans for the Town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and its possible use of the Swain Green, the Farmers Market Association was seeking approval to use the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility as an alternative location. Chairman Eaton asked Town Manager Hull whether he can confirm the availability of Yentile Farm. Town Manager Hull advised that the location the Farmers Market sets up is available.

Chairman Eaton asked if there were any questions, comments or a motion. A motion was made by Selectman O'Mahony, seconded by Selectman Caira and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Selectmen approve the request of Wilmington Farmers Market to conduct the Farmers Market on Sundays, June 13, 2021 through October 3, 2021, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and further to approve the alternate location of Yentile Farm Recreational Facility on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in the event the Fourth of July celebration precludes the use of the Swain Green.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Eaton asked if there were members of the public wishing to comment and was advised there were not. Chairman Eaton reminded viewers of the process to make public comment and advised that he would wait a moment in the event someone wishes to comment.

Chairman Eaton asked Mr. O'Neil whether there were any callers wishing to speak and after confirming no additional speakers he declared Public Comments closed and continued with the remainder of the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Selectman Bendel noted that Chairman Eaton recently announced that he is not running for re-election to the Board of Selectmen and remarked that it has been a privilege to work with him.

### NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Town Manager Hull reviewed important dates including:

- February 23 – Finance Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.  
POLICE DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY CENTRAL DISPATCH, FIRE DEPARTMENT
- February 25 – Finance Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.  
TOWN CLERK, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- March 2 – Finance Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.  
SHAWSHEEN TECHNICAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
- March 4 – Finance Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.  
WILMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- March 8 – Board of Selectmen – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.
- March 16 – Finance Committee/Planning Board Joint Public Hearing Relative to the  
Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.
- March 18 – Finance Committee – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.
- March 22 – Board of Selectmen – Virtual – 7:00 p.m.
  
- May 1 – Annual Town Meeting – 9:00 a.m.  
Shriner's Auditorium, 99 Fordham Road

### SALUTE TO SERVICE

Chairman Eaton recognized Zach Mayo, a 2006 graduate of Wilmington High School who was captain of the football and basketball teams. After high school Zach joined the United States Navy and deployed as a Navy Corpsman to Afghanistan where he earned the Combat Action Ribbon, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal among other awards and medals. Zach was an unbelievable Combat Medic during his deployment and earned the respect of all the Marines he served with who relied on Zach during combat to save their lives. Unfortunately, Zach succumbed to the invisible wounds of war and passed away in 2017. Rest in peace sir and thank you and your family for your service to our country.

A motion was made by Selectman O'Mahony, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recording Secretary